

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William K. Konrad (Reg. No. 28,868) on 9/8/08.

The claims in the application have been amended as follows:

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method for cooperative distributed task management in a storage subsystem with multiple controllers, comprising:

initiating by an initiating controller a task to be performed;

establishing by the initiating controller a task coordination data object shared by the multiple controllers, wherein the task coordination data object comprises discrete partitions of the task comprising task instructions and states for each partition of the task, task instructions for each partition of the task capable of being completed separately by one of the plurality of controllers;

indicating a state of a partition as being READY, IN PROGRESS, or COMPLETE;

selecting by a free controller an available partition of the task separately and independently of the other controllers as indicated by the states for each partition of task instructions wherein the selecting by a free controller is performed by examining the partitions in a READY state and selecting at least one partition in the READY state to operate on; and

completing by the free controller the selected partition of the task separately and independently of the other controllers as indicated by the states for each partition of task instructions.

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 ~~25~~, wherein a partition is in an IN PROGRESS state during processing.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising setting by a controller a partition selected for processing to a COMPLETE state upon completion of processing for the partition.

28. (cancelled)

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein a partition is in an IN PROGRESS state during processing.

30. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising setting by a controller a partition selected for processing to a COMPLETE state upon completion of processing for the partition.

31. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the states provide a semaphore-mechanism for allowing a controller to ascertain whether to acquire control over a partition.

32. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising notifying the initiating controller when all partition states are complete and performing completion actions that are required.

33. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the task coordination data object includes information about an operation to be performed and a data set to be operated on.

34-42. (cancelled)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KENNETH TANG whose telephone number is (571)272-3772.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 6:00PM, Every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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